

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The drawings, specification, and title of the invention have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, and 11 is acknowledged with appreciation. In order to expedite the allowance of this application, Claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 3, and 11 have been rewritten in independent form, with appropriate revisions to address the objections to Claims 1 and 10. Claim 8 has also been amended to address the objections thereto. The dependencies of Claims 4-7 have been revised in view of the cancellation of Claim 1. New dependent Claims 17-20 have been added to provide specific protection for certain features of the invention within the broader scope of independent Claim 3.

By virtue of the above amendments, all objections and rejections have been overcome, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

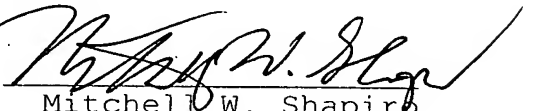
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit

any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2 and 15. These sheets replace the original sheets.